

Specification Amendments:

Corrections to page 17, line 12 and page 18, line 10 (three paragraphs are reprinted, from page 17, line 8 to page 18, line 14):

Figs. 8 and 8A show a further variation on the basic operation of several of the previously described embodiments. The orientation of the components in Fig. 8 is the same as that in Figs. 6 and 7, and Fig. 8A is a cross section similar to Figs. 6A and 7A. Here, the modified pivot frame ~~112~~ 113 (secured to the snowshoe frame, not shown, in a manner as described above) has a pair of upstanding pivot ears 114 to pivotally support a foot bed or foot box 116. This pivotal connection provides for rotation about the roll axis, similar to what is described above, but in this case the spring biasing toward the normal position is achieved in a different way. One or more coiled torsion springs 118 are secured about the pivot pin or rivets 120, so as to spring-bias the rotatable footbed or foot box 16 toward the centered position. One way of anchoring the ends of the spring 18 is to place them underneath each of a pair of frame-integral fingers 122 as shown in Figs. 8 and 8A. The center 124 of the coiled torsion spring 118 passes around the rivet 120. On left or right tilting of the platform 116, one end or the other of the spring 118 is deflected downwardly.

The footbed or foot box 116 may be provided with holes 126, for access to the inner ends of the rivets 120 during

manufacture.

Figs. 9 and 9A show schematically another embodiment of a two degrees of freedom binding according to the invention, similar in principle to Fig. 8 but achieving the spring biasing force in a different way. In Fig. 9 a pivot frame 130 is somewhat similar to the frame ~~112~~ 113 in Fig. 8, and may be secured to the snowshoe frame in the same manner as in generally similar earlier described embodiments. The front of the snowshoe is again to the upper left in the drawing, as indicated by the direction arrow 132.

Page 23, correction on line 17:

Figs. 15-15C show another form of the invention and a different theory of pivoting. Fig. 15C shows a foot 220 and indicates the most desirable location for roll-axis pivoting, i.e. about a pivot axis 222 located approximately at the ankle. This is for maximum comfort and safety and minimum stress to the snowshoe user. This desired or theoretical pivot axis 222 is also seen in Figs. 15A and 15B. In Fig. 15 a pitch-axis rotation member 224 somewhat similar to the pivot frames shown in earlier embodiments is secured for rotation on the snowshoe, via ends 226 of this component. The typical sagittal plane rotation is achieved in this way, and can be biased back to zero position by springs or elastomeric members. In this case, however, the roll-axis rotation is achieved via a footbed ~~226~~ 227 having an arcuate

bottom surface 228, for sliding or ball-bearing rotation in a concave arcuate saddle or recess 230 formed in the cross member 224. A bearing race can be provided at 232. To secure the footbed 226 to the cross member 224, a bolt 234 and special, arcuate-bottomed nut 236 can be provided, to seat in an appropriately shaped recess 238 on the upper side of the footbed 226. This provides for roll-axis pivoting about a high axis of rotation, approximately at the location 222 shown in Figs. 15A and 15B, indicating normal position and sidehill position. Bias back to the zero position is not shown but could be achieved with springs.

Correction of typo at page 25, line 23:

As shown in Fig. 18, the molded composite snowshoe 300 has a pair of turning terrain engaging rails 302 that are insert molded into the plastic material. These rails are metal, preferably of steel, such as stainless steel, and have a plurality of points 304 which act as teeth to engage the terrain. The rails may have a scalloped shape such that between the points 304 the shape of the rail bottom undulates in a curving fashion as shown at 306.

Page 31, corrections to lines 13 and 24:

Figs. 24A, 24B, and 24C demonstrate the rotation of the cleat-footbed 314 about the central roll axis as discussed above.

In Fig. 24A, the cleat/footbed is shown schematically in a normal position, not on sidehill terrain. The springs 314 334 are somewhat compressed under the weight of the user bearing down on the cleat 314, and the cables 318 are shown slightly angled, approximately equally. In Fig. 24B the user has entered sidehill terrain and the cleat/footbed 314 is shown rotated in the counterclockwise direction relative to the snowshoe frame. This rotation is shown to occur generally about a central axis 346. If these are considered frontal views, the user has entered hillside terrain which slopes down to the user's left, the boot and cleat 314 remaining generally horizontal.

Fig. 24C shows the reverse situation, with the user on opposite sidehill terrain. Again, the springs 314 334 compress to accommodate rotation of the cleat/footbed 314 about a generally central axis 346. This roll rotation is also referred to as rotation within the frontal plane of the user.